

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 101005
ORIGIN SS-25

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 101005

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR PARKER

C O R R E C T E D COPY(PARA 3, LINE 10 OMITTED)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, LE, UNSC, XF

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: LEBANESE ARMY

REF: BEIRUT 2212

1. WE PRESUME CONSUL GENERAL NEWLIN INDEPENDENTLY WILL BE PROVIDING YOU WITH AN UPDATED READING OF SIILASVUO'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS MOVING LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INTO THE SOUTH.

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2. OUR CURRENT JUDGMENT IS THAT, GIVEN THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND THE CURRENTLY SEVERE STRESSES AND TENSIONS WITHIN LEBANON'S INTERNAL BODY POLITIC, IT WILL PROBABLY BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR SARKIS TO AGREE TO SEND A MAJOR LEBANESE ARMY UNIT TO THE SOUTH NOW.

3. WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO MAKE, HOWEVER, ONE FURTHER GOOD

TRY AT GETTING THREE LIGHTLY ARMED COMPANIES DOWN TO THE SOUTH, AND SUGGEST THAT THEY COULD POSSIBLY ACCOMPANY THE SENEGALESE TROOPS THAT WOULD BE STAGED THROUGH DAMASCUS. YOU SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THE NEED FOR LEBANESE ARMY PARTICIPATION ON AT LEAST A TOKEN SCALE IS A MATTER THAT WILL NOT GO AWAY. IT WILL COLOR THE ATTITUDES OF TROOP CONTRIBUTORS NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. IF SARKIS IS INSISTENT THAT IT CAN'T BE DONE NOW, ASK WHETHER HE COULD CONSIDER DOING IT IN MAY. EXPLAIN THAT WE BELIEVE THE PROBLEMS OF LOGISTICAL SUPPLIES MOVING THROUGH PALESTINIAN-CONTROLLED AREAS, OR THROUGH ISRAEL, CAN BE SURMOUNTED IF WE PUT OUR IMAGINATIONS TO WORK. WE HAD ALREADY PUT FORTH OUR IDEA FOR A SEA SUPPLY OPERATION THROUGH NAQUORAH.

4. YOU OF COURSE HAVE TO BE THE JUDGE OF HOW TO HANDLE THIS PROBLEM, BUT, IF YOU ARE GETTING NOWHERE, SUGGEST THAT YOU MAKE CLEAR THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY IS GETTING MORE GENDARMES TO JOIN WITH UNIFIL. ASK WHETHER THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF GETTING QUALIFIED VETERANS OUT OF RETIREMENT OR WHETHER MILITARY MEN COULD BE SECONDED TEMPORARILY TO THIS FORCE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

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